

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,
Energy Office

Date: May 4, 2004

Subject: Update

The following is the May 2004 monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

Supply Programs

- 1) Energetech: The staff in the Washington offices of the RI congressional delegation were provided with a Project update on April 28, 2004, which can be summarized as follows:
 - a) Activity in the area of permitting continues, and a pre-consultation is being scheduled with the RI CRMC, currently the lead permitting agency. The pre-consultation is a scoping session in which the developer will present the list of information to be submitted for the permit. The result of the pre-consultation, to be completed in May, 2004, will be an indication from the CRMC that the permitting of the Point Judith Project is achievable.
 - b) Outreach to interested parties has been launched and meetings will be held over the summer with the groups assumed to be most sensitive to the siting of the Project. The meetings will be conducted in a collaborative manner, and the expected result is that all siting issues will have been identified and dealt with by the end of Summer, 2004.
 - c) Outreach to other potential funding states (NY, NJ and CA) will continue at the May, 2004, meeting of the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA).

A research paper from CESA which highlighted ocean energy activity internationally was provided to the delegation staff. What this paper illustrates is that, although the US DOE has no activity currently in ocean energy, there is quite a bit of activity around the globe. Therefore, while it seems apparent that the appropriations request of \$1.8 to \$2.5 million is unlikely to be achieved this year due to the early stage of the permitting process, it would seem to make sense to have some funding directed to this effort in 2005. Therefore, we are requesting that a lower level of appropriation, \$300,000 to \$500,000, be considered. This would allow DOE to begin to get involved in the area of ocean power. Updates to the congressional delegation will continue. Due to the presidential election, it is likely that the bill for Federal appropriations will not be taken up in committee until after November.

- 2) URI Wind Project – The students are working on a powerpoint presentation for the Master Plan review committee meeting on May 14. Siting (visual photosimulations done by RWU students) and financing issues will be addressed. Both internal and third party financing options will be discussed. Three turbine sizes are being analyzed for a location on the main campus: 250 kW; 600 kW and 1000 kW. According to the financial analysis, the smallest size unit would require a substantial incentive to provide power at the same costs as power purchased from the grid. The economics of the larger units are significantly better.
- 3) Johnson and Wales University Wind Project. – Kevin Shulte from SED is still finalizing the report of SED's predevelopment activities. The report will include a financing plan that

involves third party ownership by a power marketer. A meeting is planned with the senior facilities staff of JWU to present the results of the report.

- 4) Solar on Schools – A recommendation on data acquisition systems will be made to the Board at the May 11 meeting .
- 5) PV RFP – Nine responses to the current round of the PV RFP were received on April 21 and will be reviewed for the June meeting. If any member of the Advisory Board is interested in being part of the committee reviewing the proposals please contact Nancy Selman.

Customer Demand Programs

- 6) **Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program –** Think Energy and the RECA group continue to work on a purchase of RECs under a contract for differences structure with a preferred supplier. A more detailed update will be provided in the May 11 meeting.
- 7) State House Green Power Purchase – The RFP for the purchase of green power for the State House is being finalized and planned for circulation in mid-May.
- 8) CSG/Shaws – CSG is requesting that it be allowed to swap a product (Regen) being sold to Shaws for a different product (basically the same product being used for GreenUp) which is only 15% new, compared to the 100% new content of the Regen product. Shaws has agreed to the exchange, and CSG would like the incentive under the Fund's Large Customer Program to continue. This request will be presented and discussed at the May 11 meeting.
- 9) GSA/EPA – the RFP issued jointly by these Federal government agencies has run into some legal issues for specifying a preference for one geographic location over another. The EPA has withdrawn its portion of the solicitation, and GSA has just received 6 proposals for RECS from around the country. Separately, GSA is working on a solicitation for a long-term purchase of a green power product and has asked for some feedback on an RFP.

Outreach

Smartpower – An Update from Smartpower is attached (electronic mail). Also attached is a direct mail piece and a spreadsheet detailing a media purchase plan.

- 10) Apeiron Sustainable Living Festival – A reminder for the Apeiron 2004 Rhode Island Sustainable Living Festival: Saturday, June 5th, 11am to 7pm. The 40 –plus workshops will include an alternative energy vehicle fleet and "Green" house tours. Tickets are: Individual \$20 advance, \$25 day of show & Family \$45 advance, \$55 day of show.
- 11) Think Energy – Attached for review are draft materials for the large customer workshop and the draft outline of a plan for a university fellowship program sponsored by the Fund (an update of this draft will be provided at the meeting). A request from URI for funding of fellowships is also attached. The Fellowship program will be discussed on May 11; comments on the draft materials for the large customer workshop would be appreciated by email or at the May 11 meeting.